

# The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Iraqis  
training  
to standard

U.S. Marines join Iraqi Army in Fallujah  
to conduct "Lion" training program



April 30, 2005

# MNSTC-I

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**Cover:** Iraqi Army Sgt. Shaheed Header Raheem, a soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, marches his troops around a compound in Fallujah to teach them basic drill movements.

Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Mike Escobar, 2nd Marine Division

# Bush pleased with progress in Iraq

**By Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush said the Iraqi people are making good progress in creating a democracy in the nation and said that as the democracy takes root, more people will see the benefits.

He spoke during a White House press conference April 28. The president also discussed North Korea.

"There are still some in Iraq who aren't happy with democracy," Bush said. "They want to go back to the old days of tyranny and darkness, torture chambers and mass graves. I believe we're making really good progress in Iraq, because the Iraqi people are beginning to see the benefits of a free society."

The president said he was pleased with Iraqi officials' announcing their cabinet. He also praised the training effort coalition forces have undertaken to form the Iraqi army and Iraqi police.

"The Iraqi military is being trained by our military, and they're performing much better than the past," Bush said. "The more secure Iraq becomes, as a result of the hard work of Iraqi security forces, the more confidence the people will have in the process, and the more isolated the terrorists will become."

But Iraq still has problems and still has terrorists willing to kill vast numbers of people to intimidate the population and bring back the excesses of the former regime. "We will work with the Iraqis to secure their future," the president said.

"A free Iraq in the midst of the Middle East is an important part of spreading peace. It's a region of the world where a lot of folks in the past never thought democracy could take hold. Democracy is taking hold. And as democracy takes hold, peace will more likely be the norm."

Bush said he would not lay out a timetable for pulling troops from Iraq. "All that will do is cause an enemy to adjust," he said. "So my answer is, 'as soon as possible.' And as soon as possible depends upon the Iraqis being able to fight and do the job."

The president said the number of U.S. troops in Iraq - now under 140,000 - is not limiting his options elsewhere in the world. In Korea, for example, the U.S. troop levels have dropped. But the U.S. has made up for that by increasing other capabilities in the nation.

"(North Korean leader) Kim Jong-il is a dangerous person," Bush said. "He's a man who starves his people. He's got huge concentration camps. And ... there is concern about his capacity to deliver a nuclear weapon. We don't know if he can or not, but I think it's best when you're dealing with a tyrant like Kim Jong-il to assume he can."

The president said the best way to deal with North Korea is via diplomacy. He said the United States tried a bilateral approach, and it didn't work.

"I felt a better approach would be to include people in the neighborhood, into a consortium to deal with him," Bush said. "It's particularly important to have China involved. China has got a lot of influence in North Korea."

"On the mountains of truth you can never climb in vain: either you will reach a point higher up today, or you will be training your powers so that you will be able to climb higher tomorrow."

— Friedrich Nietzsche (1844—1900)

# Iraqi Army, U.S. Marines training like a “lion”

By U.S. Marine Cpl. Mike Escobar  
2nd Marine Division Public Affairs

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** -- Less than a decade ago, few Iraqis would have envisioned their troubled homeland blossoming into a democratic nation.

Approximately two years after Coalition boots first hit the ground here, the country continues progressing toward becoming a safe and secure place for all of its citizens to live.

But it's not through the presence of Coalition troops that this endeavor will be accomplished, many believe. Rather, lasting peace is achieved through the efforts of the nation's own security forces, and the individual courage of the Iraqi men in its ranks.

Sons of Iraq, like Shaheed Header Raheem, risk their lives daily manning the city's entry control points and patrolling the streets alongside U.S. Marines.

As they perform their missions, Aareef (Sgt.) Raheem, his officers and fellow noncommissioned officers also train Iraqi Army recruits. These recruits are the future of the country's military.

The Iraqi Army's 1st and 2nd Battalions, 2nd Brigade, with the assistance of U.S. Marines with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, joined forces April 10 to begin conducting a 12-day-long training program, known as “Lion” training. Under this program, Iraqi officers and non commissioned officers work under Marine supervision to teach recruits topics such as enhanced AK-47 assault rifle marksmanship skills, first aid in combat, and basic map and compass reading skills.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kenneth R. Silvers, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's “Gunner,” the marksmanship portion of the curriculum teaches Iraqi soldiers how to shoot accurately from different firing positions.

Silvers explained that in situations not meriting use of deadly force, Iraqi soldiers must know how to shoot to disable, rather than kill, a threat. Precise shooting also helps



An Iraqi Army first lieutenant, or Mulaazem Awwal, and a U.S. Marine from 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment observe an Iraqi recruit as he takes aim at a target and prepares to fire.  
Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Mike Escobar

prevent bystander casualties and collateral damage, he added.

“We've done similar training before, but this new training's focus is different and better,” stated Iraqi Maj. Waleed Khiled, one of the troop's commanders. “It focuses more on the distance between the soldiers and the targets, something we hadn't really done before.”

Khiled referred to how his soldiers learn to adjust their sights to shoot accurately.

Raheem added that these are valuable lessons his troops are learning, particularly those on marksmanship and infantry patrol tactics.

“The Marines helped teach us hand signals, how to get into formations (on patrols), and a lot about marksmanship,” he continued. “Their lessons are very accurate. Without their help, we wouldn't be able to teach everything.”

He said these skills will be useful for his troops “as they enter houses filled with terrorists and walk through the city streets.”

Raheem referred to his troops' new knowledge on Marine Close Quarter Battle tactics, which teaches them how to clear rooms and operate as a team in tight spaces.

Additionally, soldiers put in hours of study time inside classrooms and atop bleachers, studying first aid, land navigation, and military tradition.

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## Lion Training From Page 3

They learn skills such as how to stop profuse bleeding by applying tourniquets and common first aid treatment for gunshot wounds and shrapnel injuries they may suffer while combating insurgents.

"With the help of the Marines and Iraqi commanders, we've also been able to get useful study books," Raheem said.

Classroom education is coupled with practical application, as troops run through drills and performance evaluations to display their concept mastery.

After successfully passing these tests, the soldiers graduate from their recruit training. They are then released to different infantry companies in Fallujah to provide security and stability for their fellow citizens.

Raheem said it's imperative that his soldiers learn their course curriculum as quickly as possible.



An Iraqi soldier leads his troops in stretching exercises during their early morning physical training. Part of the Iraqi Security Forces training includes physical activity to build up the soldiers' endurance and discipline.

Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Mike Escobar

"After this training, they (new soldiers) must go into Fallujah's streets," Raheem said. "They must learn this (course material) now, so that they can depend on each other and watch each other's backs out there."



Iraqi recruits practice taking aim near the firing line as Marines from 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and Iraqi instructors observe. Iraqi Security Forces personnel are working side-by-side with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment to conduct a "Lion Training" program to teach Iraqi army recruits the fundamentals of marksmanship, first aid in combat, and military customs and courtesies.

Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Mike Escobar

The Iraqi class graduated April 21 as the Iraqi battalion commander proudly stood his four training platoons in formation and welcomed them aboard into their respective companies.

The commander stated that the former cubs have now become full-grown lions - armed with the knowledge to keep them alive in the streets of Fallujah.

"We express our thanks to the friendly American troops," Raheem said. "We consider them as brothers."

"The American's capability is very high, and they're teaching us that capability to give us great benefit," said Jundi Amar Aaman Abdullah Shmil. "We all look forward to succeeding in patrolling the streets. I am very happy to protect Iraq from terrorists."

# Did you know?

Marvel Comics unveiled a special, limited edition comic book, "Salute to Our Troops." The comic book will be distributed free to U.S. forces in Iraq and around the world in May. Featuring the Avengers, Captain America, Spider-Man and other Marvel heroes, the comic will have a print run of one million copies.

The first 150,000 will go to soldiers in the Middle East and will be available at military exchanges.



# Royal Navy commanders in sync with service

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Up until last year, Royal Navy commanders Scott Verney and Tom Guy were strangers.

The synchronicity of significant events over the past 12 months changed that. It started at the Command and Staff College in Shrivenham, England, where they met and attended classes together. They were both promoted on the same day – May 13, 2004 – and selected for commands at sea, which made them classmates once again, this time at a Commanding Officer's Designate Course.

They finished the course last fall, but since the ships they'll command were in refit status at the yards in Rosyth, England, the Navy decided to send them both to Iraq while the vessels were being worked on.

"We went through pre-deployment training together and flew out here together on the same day, Jan. 25," Verney said, grinning. "And now we're scheduled to fly back on the same flight April 30."

Once home, they'll have about a month of down time before they join their ships and take them out to sea – each on June 7, naturally.

Verney will be based at Portsmouth, England, near his home, and Guy

will be stationed near his home in Plymouth, England.

Here in Baghdad, the men were assigned to different command groups. Verney, 39, was the maritime adviser for the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. He helped coordinate the first Navy Council meeting and with the procurement of two auxiliary vessels the Iraqi Navy will use to defend oil platforms.

Guy, 35, worked for Multi-National Forces – Iraq's headquarters as a communications and information systems, plans, programs and requirements director. The job entailed developing strategic plans for communications, focusing on areas such as Coalition requirements for accomplishing the mission, developing an Iraqi military communications system, and developing an Iraqi civil communications infrastructure.

"It had about zip to do with the Navy," Guy said, smiling.

Living and working in different places meant the men saw each other just a handful of times during their deployment.

Still, the symmetry of their service and pending ship commands has forged a friendship.



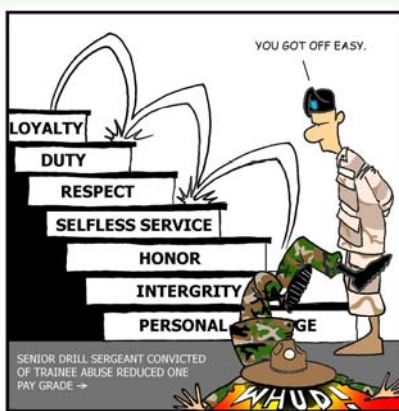
Royal Navy commanders Scott Verney, left, and Tom Guy arrived in Iraq on the same day, will depart together, and take command of ships back home on the same day.  
Photo by U.S. Army

"I don't know that it strikes a chord with anyone else, but it does with us," Verney said.

That goes for their families as well, the men said. Both are married, Verney with four children and Guy with two.

"My wife takes some comfort in knowing we're here with someone we know," Guy said.

As they head back to England and eventually out to sea, the men do so feeling a tighter bond than when they arrived in Iraq. They're looking forward to discovering how fate will continue to link their lives.



## The Advisor

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Or, send your stories, quality photos or comments to:

[pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil)



# U.S. Air Force trains Iraqi C-130 pilots

**By U.S. Army Sgt. David Foley**  
Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs

ALI AIR BASE, Iraq – As 2005 marks major shifts in the Coalition's role in Iraq, the Iraqi army is beginning to take care of their own, and one U.S. Air Force unit is making sure the new Iraqi army has competent counterparts in the skies.

The Department of Defense provided the new Iraqi Air Force with three U.S. C-130 cargo planes, and airmen from 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron out of Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., are in Talil, Iraq, training Iraqis to fly them.

The airmen were hand-picked from C-130 units across the country by U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. William Welser, 18th Air Force commander. They're working hand-in-hand with pilots and crewmembers who served in Saddam's air force before Operation Iraqi Freedom, teaching them the basics of operating the airborne workhorses.

"By the time the program is over, which we estimate to be May 2006, they will be a fully functional squadron," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Roger Redwood, operations flight commander, 23rd Advisory Support Team, 777th EAS. The 23rd AST is training the Iraqi Air Force's 23rd Squadron.

While many of the new recruits have ample flight experience, there is one major obstacle in training them to fly American aircraft.

"The hard part of our job is teaching them to fly this airplane when they can't speak basic English," Redwood said. "Most of the officers can communicate pretty well, but they have a hard time understanding the radio calls from air traffic control."

Redwood said the enlisted airmen barely speak any English at all, so they are constantly having the offi-



A pilot in training with the 23rd Squadron (Transport), Iraqi Air Force, runs through a systems check, April 18, in Talil, Iraq, before taking off in one of three C-130 aircraft that were provided to the Iraqi Air Force by the United States. Airmen from the 23rd Advisory Support Team, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron are teaching the Iraqi pilots to use their new aircraft.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. David Foley

cers translate instructions in the aircraft, which only compounds things while training the troops.

"That's why it's taking the enlisted troops longer to qualify out," he said. "They know the airplanes. They know the systems. They can do it all in Arabic, but we require them to do it in English, because if they are going to fly worldwide, they will need to be able to do it in English."

By bringing the school to Iraq, the squadron is making military history.

"This is the first time the Air Force has had an advisory support team conducting training in a combat zone," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. John Spillane, 23rd AST chief loadmaster. "This is one of the coolest things I've ever done. No one has ever done what we're doing."

The airmen all seem to agree working with the Iraqis is an inspiring experience.

"These guys are all true patriots. They want to help their country,"

Redwood said. "All of them were higher-ranking in the Saddam era, so they took a pay cut. A lot of these guys were colonels and now they are majors. The guys coming in now are all captains, and they used to be majors and lieutenant colonels."

Even though they are taking a significant pay cut in the new Iraqi air force, money is the least of their worries.

One of the Iraqi pilots, who wanted to remain anonymous, said he lives in fear of the insurgency everyday because of what he is doing. He said none of his friends or neighbors know where he is while he is going through the training, and his wife and the wives of other pilots need to make up stories to explain their whereabouts.

"There is a threat for anyone who is trying to build this country at this time," he said.

The pilot added that the threats don't come from Iraqi citizens. They are

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# Joint Operations Center to track Iraqi forces

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Training is under-way for the first staff teams tapped to man a Joint Operations Center (JOC) for Iraq's Armed Forces.

The center is scheduled to start operating in mid-May in a two-story suite of rooms in the Ministry of Defense, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Russell Wilson, a joint headquarter's adviser with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

Plans call for five teams of five people each keeping watch over the forces from the JOC 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. A class of about 10 people is currently being trained in the center, which will be the Iraqi Joint Forces' focal point for monitoring and coordinating military operations, Wilson said.

"It will directly support operational commanders, the commanding general, Iraq's joint forces, the minister of defense and the prime minister in the command of the Iraqi Joint Forces in peace time, contingencies and war," Wilson

said. Each team will be comprised of Iraqi officers and enlisted soldiers knowledgeable in joint military operations and communications. They will monitor a variety of activities, ranging from counter insurgency operations and attack assessments to the management of peacetime contingencies like humanitarian relief, Wilson said. The staff will also alert the Ministry of Defense and other ministries of any crisis as it develops and coordinate initial responses.

The Joint Headquarters' director for operations will also maintain a 24-hour presence in the center, he added.

One Iraqi staff major currently going through training described the center as a crucial element in keeping the joint forces and new government informed.

"Information is a solution to many problems," said the officer, who asked that his name not be used for security reasons. "It is so important to provide units with information that will help with their readiness. This is the right solution for that."



Training has started for the teams that will man an Iraqi Joint Operations Center.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

## C-130 training From Page 6

people from other countries who want to make trouble in Iraq.

"I do not know why they do this," he said. "I just know they do."

The airmen of the Iraqi Air Force's

23rd Squadron recently came face to face with what the insurgency is willing to do to try and stop the reconstruction of Iraq.

An Iraqi loadmaster's brother was killed because of his involvement with the new Iraqi Air Force. The loadmaster then took time off to move his brother's family into his house, and considered quitting the force, but his comrades supported him and convinced him to continue training.

Redwood said there have been several other incidents where insurgents have targeted family members of the airmen, and every time he wonders if they will come back to the training. They al-

ways do.

Once the squadron is fully trained they will be able to support most of the Iraqi Army's missions, but will need a few more airplanes to be completely self-sufficient, Redwood said.

"Three is not enough for such a big country," he said. "They will need a good six or eight in my opinion. If they had eight more airplanes, they would be able to support the Iraqi Army easily."

Another problem Redwood pointed out is the need for younger pilots.

"The problem they are having right now is that these guys are all old. They need some new blood," he said. "A lot of these guys have been in the Air Force for 20 years or more. They are at retirement age, but they know that. They've told their Ministry of Defense, and they are handling it."



A pilot in training with the 23rd Squadron (Transport), Iraqi Air Force, loads his baggage April 18, in Talil, Iraq.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. David Foley

# Iraq cadets get crash course in art of policing

**By Sandra Jontz**

Stars and Stripes  
Mideast edition, Sunday, April 17, 2005

BAGHDAD — One day soon, Maj. Gen. Mohammed hopes, the Baghdad Police Academy will return to its illustrious days of turning out the best police leaders in Iraq.

But for now, the dean of the academy said he must be content with overseeing the training of police cadets in an eight-week crash course to fill the rank-and-file of beat cops.

"The challenges? There are plenty of difficulties, starting with, now we are a training center, not a college," said the general. For security reasons, he asked his last name not be used.

The academy, which started in 1944, was the jewel of the Iraqi police force, he said. Officers attended for three years, earning a bachelor of police science degree.

"This place holds a special place in their hearts," said Alexander Hutchison, deputy director of the Baghdad academy. The U.S.-led coalition and Ministry of Interior recognized that, and have approved plans to extend the curriculum, first moving to a six-month program, then nine, then 12, and finally to the full-fledged three-year baccalaureate program it once was.

For now, the sprawling 250- to 300-acre campus in downtown Baghdad focuses on the basics of policing. It is one of five basic police academies in Iraq managed by the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, or CPATT, which has trained more than 27,000 cadets since October. Training also takes place in Jordan.

Each month, about 3,500 new police officers graduate from the eight-week courses.

The program is about 75 percent hands-on training, from shooting live rounds on the range to techniques of riot control, baton use and disarming a suspect. Courses are taught by current and former civilian police officers and military police.

Soldiers from Sgt. 1st Class James Shuman's platoon from the 411th Military Police Company, out of Fort Hood, Texas, for example,



Cadets at the Baghdad Police Academy train to use their batons. The cadets are enrolled in an eight-week training program that teaches them the basics of policing.

Photo by Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

**"They come here to learn how to do things easier and better, be more efficient and more progressive."**

*Kevin Clayton  
Advanced Training bureau chief*

have about 1,000 cadets under their tutelage. The cadets are eager to learn and quickly grasp the lessons,

Shuman said.

With unemployment high in Iraq, many Iraqis flock to the academy gates seeking employment, said Lyle Gensler, recruiting chief of Baghdad Academy.

Not all get in. Candidates first must go through a vetting process that starts at their provincial police stations and have letters of recommen-

dation from tribal, spiritual or government leaders.

Then they go through a litany of literacy, psychological and physical tests that include an obstacle course and distance run.

At the Adnan Palace in Baghdad, instructors provide training for experienced members of the former police force, offering specialized and management courses in 16 areas including criminal investigations, violent crimes, organized crimes, kidnapping negotiations, and counter-terrorism investigations.

Nearly 4,300 people have taken the courses thus far. A smaller advanced training site is in the north at Irbil.

"They come here to learn how to do things easier and better, be more efficient and more progressive," said Kevin Clayton, 49, bureau chief of Advanced Training.

First Lt. Bashir Abass, 30, is delving into the area of Internal Affairs, those officers tasked with policing their own. Corruption was rampant under the former government, he said. Police did not earn a lot of money and often took bribes.

"There is a very big difference in the way we used to do things," Abass said.



An instructor repositions a cadet's arm during live-fire training Tuesday at the Baghdad Police Academy.

Photo by Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes



# Iraqi cops see need to protect, serve

**By Sandra Jontz**

Stars and Stripes

Mideast edition, April 15, 2005

BAGHDAD — For about \$200 a month, 24-year-old Mnieer risks his life getting to and from the office. He's an Iraqi police officer.

Strike one.

He's employed in the U.S. coalition-controlled International Zone police station.

Strike two.

But the young police officer said he sees a dire need to help protect his country, and the spate of insurgent threats and terrorist bombings that has killed hundreds of his brethren won't dissuade him.

"We have a good system and we're taking care of the country," Mnieer, who requested his full name not be used for security reasons, said of being a police officer assigned to the International Zone, or IZ, station.



Iraqi policeman Mnieer, 24, hands out Blow Pop lollipops to children living in a run-down amphitheater inside Baghdad's International Zone. He said community policing is needed to gain trust of the community, a foreign concept to most Iraqis.

Photo by Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

Under a program set up by the U.S.-led Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, the IZ facility will serve as the "model station" for Iraq's police force, officials said. The training team is responsible for organizing, training,

equipping and mentoring the entire Iraqi police force.

The International Zone, also called the Green Zone, is home to the U.S. Embassy and key military planners and operators. But within the confines of the concertina wire, concrete walls and manned checkpoints, live between 7,000 and 10,000 Iraqis. The IZ police station responds to burglaries, robberies, assaults and corruption schemes, said Paul Boothe, the advisory team leader and a police officer in McKinney, Texas.

The Iraqi police, referred to as IPs, are learning the concept of "community policing," getting out of the office and hitting the streets. Advisers want to quell the long-practiced police habit of sitting around the station and wait-

ing for complaints to come to them.

Six days a week, the IPs conduct joint patrols with the U.S. military, walking narrow alleys and littered streets and checking out abandoned buildings, both looking for trouble and connecting with the community. Soon, they'll begin enforcing traffic laws with U.S. military police.

A 23-year-old Iraqi mother of two said she and her family refuse to leave the security of the IZ. Her husband is an Iraqi working for the U.S.-led coalition, and could be killed for his work, she said through a translator.

"We feel secure and see the IP and they ask about our problems," said the woman, who added that she would rather live in a dilapidated building inside the boundaries rather than seek a home outside the Green Zone.

A crumbling amphitheater within the zone is "home" to about 200 squatters, who also refuse to leave the security afforded them by living in the fortified zone. But that means living in squalor and stench, with no running water, bathrooms or hygienic places to dump their garbage. In a way, the squatters are the least of the IPs' problems for now.

One challenge is getting the police to show up for work. Advisers grapple with an attendance problem that reaches from the station captain on down to the lowest of subordinate forces, Boothe said.

Culturally, he said, Iraq is a place where being on time isn't of the essence. It might be a running joke that "Iraqi time" means adding two hours to an appointed time, but it has proven problematic, Boothe said.

"And the Iraqi police [under Saddam Hussein] have a history of corruption and being abusive," Boothe said. "Our goal is to remove that taint of history. From what we gather, the [residents] are gaining faith in the system."

Right now, the IZ station doesn't reflect the zone's demographics. Of the 60 IPs, there are no women in the ranks.

"We're working on that," Boothe said. "It's important that the police force reflect the demographics of the community."



U.S. Soldiers from Delta Company, 464th Armor Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division, walk along the streets of Baghdad's International Zone with a squad of Iraqi police during a joint patrol.

Photo by Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi citizens help find weapons

BAGHDAD — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained 13 suspected terrorists, including a woman allegedly tied to al-Qaeda terrorist leader Abu Musab-al-Zarqawi, during operations conducted April 22.

An Iraqi citizen saved the lives of Soldiers and civilians in west Baghdad by pointing out an improvised explosive device to a Task Force Baghdad unit before terrorists could detonate the bomb. An explosives team called to the site determined that the device was an anti-tank round and safely disposed of it.

Later in the day, local Iraqi citizens in the Salman Pak area turned a weapons cache over to Iraqi Police officers. The Iraqis turned in 30 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 50 mortar rounds, 100 fuses, 100 feet of detonation cord and TNT to the Iraqi Police.

"A lot more people want to rebuild Iraq than want to tear it apart," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "The Iraqi people are fed up and are turning against terrorists and terrorist acts more and more."

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, working with the Iraqi Police near Salman Pak found a weapons cache with 200 mortar rounds. The Iraqi Police secured the area to allow explosives experts to look for more weapons that may be buried at the site.

In south Baghdad, U.S. Soldiers found another weapons cache consisting of 12 artillery rounds, 20 mortar rounds and 1,000 feet of wire. An explosive ordnance team safely destroyed the munitions.

"All residents who have information about terrorist activity in their neighborhoods are encouraged to help Iraqi Security Forces rid the streets of crime by calling or emailing the TIPS hotline," said Kent.

## Multi-National forces capture terrorists

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Police and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers apprehended

16 terror suspects in the Baghdad area April 23-24.

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers swept through a village in north Baghdad and captured 11 suspected terrorists during an early-morning raid April 24. The suspects are believed to be members of a terror cell that planned and carried out bombing and mortar attacks.

At 8 a.m. April 23, a Task Force Baghdad unit in northwest Baghdad was struck by a stationary vehicle-carried explosive device across the street from the Taji Iraqi Police Station. One U.S. Soldier suffered minor burns in the attack and was treated on-site.

Iraqi Police officers on the scene identified a yellow van with the two trigger men inside and gave chase. When the van was stopped, the two suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

"With haphazard, uncoordinated attacks we're seeing how the extremists' efforts to intimidate Iraqis are failing," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "The people of Iraq are getting tired and angry at these attacks and those who carry them out. The violence of the terrorists slows the economic progress of Iraq, which in turn robs everyday Iraqis of the chance for employment, prosperity and freedom."

Twenty minutes later in a west Baghdad marketplace, a dismounted U.S. patrol caught a terrorist specifically targeted for being a member of a mortar team that fires on coalition bases. The Soldiers took the man and his brother into custody for questioning.

A Task Force Baghdad unit in south Baghdad took another suspect

into custody and brought him to a U.S. military base where he was positively identified.

"With the assistance from Iraqi Security Forces and tips from local citizens who are reporting terrorist activity in their neighborhoods, we are placing increased pressure on those who want to disrupt Iraq's progress toward democracy," said Kent. "Despite recent, headline-grabbing attacks on innocent civilians, the effectiveness of terrorist groups is dwindling."

Also, Task Force Baghdad units, working in conjunction with Iraqi Security Forces and acting on tips from local residents, continue to investigate and detain individuals believed to have ties to the April 22 shooting down of a civilian MI-8 helicopter northwest of Baghdad. The number of captured terrorists suspected to have possible links to the attack has increased to 10.



## UAE bound engineers

A group of Iraqi 1st Engineer Regiment soldiers board an Iraqi C-130 cargo plane for training in the United Arab Emirates. The soldiers are being trained through an agreement between Iraq, Germany and the UAE, signed by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder during a March visit. The agreement has Germany supplying instructors and equipment such as graders, bulldozers, 20-ton cranes and cement mixers to the unit, which has 250 Iraqi trainees. The UAE is covering trainee expenses, along with costs associated with supplying trainers and interpreters.

Photo courtesy MNSTC-I's Coalition Military Assistance Training Team



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi citizen tips lead to IEDs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi citizens came forward and volunteered information about terrorist activities in Baghdad April 25—tips which led Iraqi Security Forces to potentially-deadly improvised explosive devices.

Shortly before 9 a.m., a local national provided a tip to the Iraqi Army, telling authorities about an IED buried under rocks near an electric company. Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to the report. The area was secured and the IED detonated with no casualties.

About an hour later, an Iraqi citizen reported the location of another IED in south-central Baghdad to Iraqi Police. The police officers rushed to the scene, set up a cordon to secure the area and told the landowner of the possible bomb.

An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to extract the IED, which turned out to be a can inside a black bag consisting of steel ball bearings, C4 plastic explosives and a detonator.

"Both of these Iraqi patriots did a brave thing today—they saved an untold number of lives by reporting

information to their local police and Iraqi Army authorities," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "Today's incidents also show how Iraqi Security Forces are self-sustaining and fully mission-capable of handling emergencies like these. Task Force Baghdad units were on the scene, but only in a limited support role; it was the ISF units who were in control of the situation."

## Cordon and search mission nets suspect

MOSUL — Following an evening cordon and search mission here April 23, joint forces successfully captured a targeted suspect and detained his two brothers, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 101<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army and Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry captured Taha Al-Hadidi, an insurgent suspected in killing three IA soldiers in February. The detained suspects were transported to a forward operating base for further questioning. No injuries or damage was reported during the operation.

## Soldiers recover fake police trucks

MOSUL — Iraqi soldiers conducting a cordon and search operation in the Al Rissala neighborhood detained a man guarding a garage in which two trucks painted to look like Iraqi police vehicles were hidden, according to a multinational forces report.

The detained man led the soldiers to the owner of the vehicles, who was also detained. The soldiers also confiscated an AK-47 automatic rifle with four magazines of ammunition. The soldiers are members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Iraqi Army.

## SWAT team captures insurgents

MUSAYYIB — A Hillah SWAT team on a cordon and search operation

with Coalition Forces captured two suspected insurgents in a home southwest of here, according to a multinational forces report. The team also found an 82mm white phosphorus mortar round during the search.

## Iraqi NCO finds high-value target

TAJI — An Iraqi Army noncommissioned officer recognized the name of a suspected insurgent on a list of high-value targets and captured him April 24, according to a multinational forces report.

After noticing the suspect's name on the list, the NCO remembered him as the nephew of someone he had talked to while on a patrol. The NCO immediately alerted Coalition Forces and then went to look for the suspect on his own while in uniform. He went to a couple of houses before local citizens directed him to the right one, where he went inside and captured the suspect. The NCO had secured the suspect in flex-cuffs by the time Coalition Forces arrived.

The high-value target is suspected in 30 killings, including recent beheadings.

## Iraqi forces clear two mosques of weapons

AL MUSAYYIB — Iraqi police officers detained a cleric on a target list of anti-Iraqi forces while searching the Musayyib mosque for weapons April 25, according to a multinational forces report.

The search also uncovered three 100mm rounds, a 107mm rocket, a suicide vest and several improvised explosive devices. A rocket-propelled grenade round was also found hidden in water near the mosque. An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the munitions.

In Najaf, a contractor working on remodeling a room of the Kuffa mosque discovered a weapons cache buried in a dirt floor April 25. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team recovered 46 60mm rounds, eight 82mm rounds and 55 60mm and 80mm rounds.

## Looking back

### One year ago in Iraq

**FALLUJAH, Iraq — Soldiers from the newly formed Iraqi Army's Fallujah Brigade began to conduct patrols as part of the effort to end the standoff with insurgents in the city. Iraqi forces assumed control of four checkpoints and started patrolling, reports stated. Hundreds of families who left Fallujah during the fierce fighting started to return after hearing the Iraqi force would join efforts to control violence. Nearly a third of Fallujah's 200,000 people fled the fighting after U.S. Marines launched an offensive against Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah earlier in April 2004.**

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi police drive back insurgent attack

BAQUBAH – Iraqi police manning a checkpoint repelled an insurgent attack here April 25, according to a multinational forces report.

The police officers chased the attackers to their vehicle and captured one suspect as he was trying to reload his weapon. One police officer was wounded in the fight.

## Officers recover Russian rockets

AN NAJAF – A tip from a local citizen led Iraqi officers from the Waffa Police Station to a weapons cache in a field next to an Al Kafal gas station, according to a multinational forces report.

An intelligence unit from the police station recovered 75 Russian-made Katushya rockets from the field during the operation. The munitions were turned over to an explosive ordnance disposal team for disposal.

## Iraqi soldier finds IED at home

BALAD – An Iraqi Army soldier discovered a small improvised explosive device outside his home April 25, according to a multinational forces report.

The soldier said he removed the batteries from the timing device, secured it and brought it in to his unit. It

was a small aluminum can packed with PE-4 explosive material. An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the explosive material.

## Tips lead to IED discoveries

BAGHDAD – A tip from a local citizen led Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers to an improvised explosive device set up on a road near an electric company April 25, according to a multinational forces report.

The Iraqi Army soldiers are with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division.

In another area of Baghdad, an Iraqi civilian found an IED and alerted police, who called in an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team. The IED was a black bag with a can inside containing steel ball bearings, C-4 plastic explosives and a detonator.

## Iraqi Army Division discovers rounds

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Division found and cleared several mortar rounds April 26, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi soldiers reported finding four 60mm and one 120mm mortar rounds. The rounds were taken to the headquarters for inspection and disposal. No injuries or damages were reported during the operation.

## Iraqi Army search nets suspect

MOSUL – Following an evening cordon and search mission here April 26, Iraqi Army forces successfully captured a targeted suspect and detained his four brothers, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 101<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Battalion captured Salim Awfi Al-Zubai, an insurgent suspected as an anti-Iraqi forces coordinator. The detained suspects were transported to Al Kindi Iraqi Army Base for further questioning. No injuries or damages were reported during the operation.

## Police defend station, capture insurgents

TIKRIT – Iraqi police officers stood their ground and captured three armed insurgents against an attack by anti-Iraqi forces at Mufrek Police Station April 26, according to multinational force reports.

Anti-Iraqi forces attacked the police station with small arms fire and wounded one Iraqi police officer. The police station dispatched five IP vehicles in pursuit and captured three armed insurgents at Mufrek Circle. The IP confiscated two vehicles carrying two improvised explosive devices consisting of TNT.

The insurgents were transported to Mufrek Police Station for further questioning and detainment.

## Iraqi equipment rollup

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week

Ammunition.....	21.4 million rounds	Russian 2 1/2 ton trucks.....	57
Individual body armor.....	1,700	Chevy Luminas.....	90
Sniper rifles.....	648	Chevy LUVs.....	240
AK-47s.....	1,250	Ashok Leylands.....	4
RPKs.....	50		
Ambulances.....	20		

Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Joint raid captures four suspects

BALAD – The 203<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Army Battalion and units of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, conducted a joint raid in Ashaki April 26 that resulted in the detainment of four suspected anti-Iraqi force members, according to a multinational forces report.

The joint raid was based on intelligence information from a confidential informant .

## Combined assault nets enemy forces

TAL ABTA – Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers joined Coalition air and ground forces in an April 27 large-scale attack of an insurgent cell suspected of making improvised explosive devices, according to a multinational forces report.

Twenty-two anti-Iraqi forces were detained and a small weapons cache recovered. An Iraqi Army force of 450 soldiers and three U.S. Army platoons participated in the operation.

In Tal Afar, two Iraqi Army battalions joined forces with two U.S. cavalry squadrons in a large scale cordon and search operation April 27 that brought in numerous weapons and equipment.

## Iraqi Police graduate 2,872 in April from basic police training

BAGHDAD – The Iraq Police Service graduated 2,872 police officers in April from basic police training courses in Sulaymaniyah, Basrah, Jordan and Baghdad.

There were 320 police recruits from the Sulaymaniyah Regional Academy; 138 from the Basrah Police Academy; 1,488 from the Jordan International Police Training Center; and 926 from the Baghdad Police College. The Baghdad class included five female police students.

The basic police training program is designed to provide fundamental and democratic policing skills based on international human rights standards to the students in preparation for as-

suming police officer responsibilities. The program consists of academic study of general policing topics combined with a heavy emphasis to tactical operational policing skills. The basic police training curriculum was recently modified to include more hands-on and practical training exercises especially addressing specific survival skills needed by today's Iraqi Police Service officers.

To date, more than 30,800 police recruits have completed the eight-week training course developed for new recruits. An additional 36,000 police officers have completed the three-week Transitional Integration Program course that provides officers with prior police experience a condensed version of the longer basic police training course.

The new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks and take up assignments at their respective police stations throughout Iraq.

## Iraqi Police graduate 204 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 204 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility April 28, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 45 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 29 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 31 graduates, Internal Controls Investigation with 30 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 25 graduates, Kidnapping Investigation with 29 graduates, and Mid-level Management with 15 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. This course has graduated 1,499 police officers to date.

The Interviews and Interrogations course covers advanced interview and

interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. This course has graduated 252 students to date.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes against persons cases such as armed robbery, rape and murder. 193 students have previously graduated this course. This course has graduated 193 students to date.

The Internal Controls course provides training on how to deal with personnel complaints and allegations, as well as police conduct in general. Training includes the processing of complaints and conducting follow-up investigations to determine the facts of allegations made against members of the Iraqi Police Service. This course has graduated 580 students to date.

The Critical Incident Management course is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. This course has graduated 150 students to date.

The Kidnapping Investigations course provides students with basic theory and practice of crisis negotiation. The course explores the psychological underpinnings of crisis situation and instructs students on law enforcement priorities in a crisis situation. This course has graduated 334 students to date.

The Mid-Level Management course is designed for supervisors who are responsible for managing the first line supervisors and their assigned personnel. This course has graduated 272 students to date.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Search uncovers large weapons cache

**HAMMAM AL ALIL** – Iraqi police officers, working with Coalition forces, discovered a large stash of weapons April 27, according to a multinational forces report.

The cache consisted of seven anti-tank rounds, 75 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 25 80mm mortar rounds, nine tank training rounds, 50 25mm rounds, 75 grenade bodies, 12 anti-personnel mines, a 60mm mortar base plate and detonation cord.

## Suspects captured by Iraqi forces

**MOSUL** – Two separate cordon and search operations by Iraqi Army soldiers resulted in the capture of several individuals targeted for insurgent activity, according to a multinational forces report.

In an April 27 operation, a man wanted for making improvised explosive devices was captured, along with another man known for creating and distributing propaganda, and a third for participation with a terrorist cell. Two additional suspects were also detained in the operation.

Soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Division – formerly known as the 104<sup>th</sup> Battalion – conducted the operation. The same soldiers captured a man known for recruiting others into anti-Iraqi forces in an April 28 operation.

Another cordon and search operation on April 27 brought in a targeted insurgent and four other suspects. Soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Division – formerly known as the 101<sup>st</sup> Battalion – conducted the operation.

Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers also found a targeted suspect in an April 27 search. The man, an ac-

cused weapons trafficker, and his brother were detained by soldiers with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Division – formerly known as the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

## Small arms fire leads to weapons cache

**KIRKUSH** – A company of Iraqi soldiers returning to base camp April 28 responded to a report of shots fired by conducting a search of a local village, where they discovered a number of weapons, according to a multinational forces report.

The cordon and search mission through the Duwij village netted several machine gun parts, more than 200 rounds of ammunition, several Russian and Egyptian hand grenades, dynamite, fuses and a book on making bombs.

Soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Division conducted the operations.

## Soldiers deliver woolly birthday gifts to residents

**BAGHDAD** -- In celebration of the Prophet Mohammed's birthday, soldiers from 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division teamed up with Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division to deliver 25 sheep to the residents of Salhiya and Sheik Maruf April 20.

"The delivery of the sheep was coordinated with Mohammed's birthday and it was a huge success," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Roth, 4/64 battalion commander.

As the Iraqi and U.S. soldiers brought the sheep, "the people on Haifa Street were dancing and clapping," Roth said.

Mawlid an-Nabi is a special holiday for many of the Muslim faith and is celebrated to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. The holiday was celebrated April 21 this year.

Giving the sheep away was an opportunity to not only help some families have a good meal, but to extend the friendship between citizens and Soldiers of the 4/64, Roth added.

Information, photos courtesy  
4th Brigade Combat Team PAO

